

## Message Text

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72 (61)

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APPROVED BY EUR/IB:MR LUKENS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 023229

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDED ADDRESSEES)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: STATEMENT OF SENATOR KENNEDY CURRENT POLITICAL  
DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL.

REF.: STATE 22603

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE BY SENATOR KENNEDY  
WHICH APPEARED IN JANUARY 30 EDITION OF CONGRESSIONAL  
RECORD: "MR, PRESIDENT, DURING RECENT DAYS, WE HAVE BEEN  
RECEIVING DISTURBING REPORTS FROM PORTUGAL, ABOUT  
THE PROGRESS OF ITS DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT: LAST WEEKEND,  
THE CONVENTION IN OPORTO OF THE CENTER DEMOCRATIC SOCIAL  
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PARTY -CDS- WAS DISRUPTED BY PROTESTERS, LEADING TO THE

CONVENTION'S CANCELLATION.

RECENTLY, LEGISLATION WAS APPROVED THAT COULD EFFECTIVELY STRENGTHEN THE DOMINANCE OF THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT.

THERE ARE RECURRING REPORTS OF EFFORTS TO POSTPONE OR CANCEL ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, LONG PROMISED BY THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT FOR THIS MARCH. AND THERE ARE GROWING RUMORS OF FURTHER VIOLENCE AND A POSSIBLE COUP D'ETAT BY OPPONENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN LISBON.

MR. PRESIDENT, MANY OF US IN THIS CHAMBER WELCOMED THE OVERTHROW OF THE CAETANO REGIME IN LISBON LAST APRIL 25,

ENDING 48 YEARS OF REPRESSIVE RULE, AND BEGINNING AN END TO 500 YEARS OF PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM IN AFRICA. LAST NOVEMBER, I VISITED PORTUGAL AND MET WITH MANY OF ITS LEADERS. WHILE THERE, I EXPRESSED BY OWN SUPPORT FOR THE FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY AND, UPON RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES, INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE AID FOR PORTUGAL AND THE FIVE AFRICAN STATES GAINING THEIR INDEPENDENCE; \$25 MILLION WAS AUTHORIZED; \$10 MILLION HAS SO FAR BEEN APPROPRIATED IN THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION.

THIS EFFORT I BELIEVE IS A FIRM DEMONSTRATION OF CONCERN BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR WHAT WAS BEGUN LAST APRIL IN PORTUGAL. IT REFLECTS OUR CONCERN THAT THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO BUILD THEIR OWN DEMOCRATIC, PLURALISTIC INSTITUTIONS, AND THAT PORTUGAL WILL TAKE ITS RIGHTFUL PLACE AS AN ECONOMICALLY STRONG AND POLITICALLY VIABLE COUNTRY IN WESTERN EUROPE -- AND THE WORLD.

IT IS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT THE EXPERIMENT WILL GO FORWARD; AND THAT IT WILL HAVE EVERY CHANCE TO SUCCEED.

IT WOULD BE TRAGIC IF THE OLD TYRANNY OF REPRESSIVE UNCLASSIFIED

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RULE IS SIMPLY REPLACED BY A NEW TYRANNY, A NEW REPRESENTATION, A NEW DENIAL OF BASIC POLITICAL RIGHTS.

MR. PRESIDENT, DESPITE EVENTS OF THE PAST FEW WEEKS, I REMAIN HOPEFUL THAT THE PEOPLE OF PORTUGAL WILL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT THEIR DESTINY, WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC FRAMEWORK;

THAT INDIVIDUAL LIBERTIES, FREE SPEECH, AND A FREE PRESS  
WILL BE RESPECTED;

THAT THERE WILL BE FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION, AND SUPPORT  
FOR PLURALISM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL INSTITU-  
TIONS AND PARTIES:

THAT THE ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WILL BE  
HELD AS SCHEDULED, AND PROVIDE THE FIRST ELECTED BASIS  
FOR DEVELOPING THE NEW PORTUGUESE POLITICAL DEMOCRACY;  
AND  
THAT A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM WILL SUSTAIN THE PORTUGUESE  
PEOPLE IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES. KISSINGER

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